

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /119 W
----- 107668

P R 151040Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2498

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, AO, PO

SUBJECT: LUZ CUNHA REPLACES COSTA GOMES

1. MORNING'S PRESS REPORTS SACKING OF GENERAL COSTA GOMES AND SPINOLA, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ANGOLAN CINC LUZ CUNHA AS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF IN LISBON. FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS REPORT MILITARY IN METROPOLE AGAIN PLACED IN STATE OF ALERT AND CONFINED TO BARRACKS, AS THEY REPORTEDLY WERE EARLIER IN WEEK. AS FAR AS WE KNOW SIMILAR MEASURES NOT RPT NOT TAKEN HERE; ALL REMAINS NORMAL, ON SIRFACE.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, JOAQUIM LUZ CUNHA IS LACKLUSTER, ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE CAREER OFFICER WITH NO RPT NO KNOWN PERSONAL FOLLOWING. WITH DIMINISHING MILITARY ACTIVITY HERE HE GIVES IMPRESSION HE HAS HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO SPARE FOR FAVORITE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, MAINLY AS LADIES MAN. A NUMBER OF SUBORDINATES HAVE EXPRESSED LOW REGARD FOR HIM PROFESSIONALLY.

3. LUZ CUNHA IS KAULZA DE ARRIAGA'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND FROM WHAT EACH HAS SAID IN SEPARATE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, THEY SEEM TO SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS, INCLUDING LOW REGARD FOR SPINOLA.

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4. HIGH COMMAND UNABLE TO SAY WHEN LUZ CUNHA LIKELY TO DEPART

FOR NEW JOB. NOR HAVE WE ANY CLUE AS TO WHO MAY SUCCEED HIM
HERE.
BRIGGS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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